GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3788
ANSWERED ON:24.03.2017
Measures to Tackle Black Money
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Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report on 'Measures to tackle black money in India and abroad' recommends to provide protection for witness such as informers/whistleblowers with regard to black money cases;
(b) if so, the details thereof along with action taken thereon; and
(c) the quantum of black money that was declared under the Income Disclosure Scheme (IDS) commenced on 1 June, 2016 and closed on 30 September, 2016 along with the total amount of tax and penalty that was collected from declarants under the IDS?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) & (b): The report on 'Measures to tackle black money in India and abroad' inter alia, recommended that a witness protection law may be enacted expeditiously and witness protection program should be implemented by all law enforcement agencies.
Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014 (No.17 of 2014) was enacted but it could not come into force. The Government introduced the Whistle Blowers Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2015 in the Lok Sabha on 11th May, 2015 which was passed by the Lok Sabha on 13th May, 2015. The Bill seeks to amend certain provisions of the Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014 aimed at safeguarding against disclosures affecting sovereignty and integrity of India, Security of the State, etc.The said Bill is presently pending in the Rajya Sabha and its passage would enable the Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014 to come into force.
Presently, under the Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informer (PIDPI) Resolution, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) and the Chief Vigilance Officers of the Ministries/Department of the Central Government have been authorized to receive written complaints for disclosure on any allegation of corruption or misuse of office and recommend appropriate action. The CVC, after receipt of representation(s) about threats to life of Whistle Blowers, takes up the matter with the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Nodal Agency, to undertake the responsibility of providing security cover to genuine Whistle Blowers. The Home Ministry, in turn, asks individual State Governments to examine the threat and provide security cover, if needed. On the advice of Ministry of Home Affairs, State Governments have appointed Nodal Officers in the respective States to whom such matters are referred.
(c): Under Income Declaration Scheme, 2016 (the Scheme), an amount of Rs. 67,382 crore was declared by 71,726 declarants. The dates specified for payment of tax, penalty and surcharge under the Scheme are 30.11.2016, 31.03.2017 and 30.09.2017. In view of the same, the total amount collected under the Scheme can be ascertained only after the last date of instalment i.e. 30.09.2017.